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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM: Amembassy Jidda

TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF: Embassy's Despatch No. 115

December 31, 1958

DATE

17	ACTION	DEPT.
For Dept.	NEA-4	IN Rmk-2 EUR-5 IRC 8 40-1 4/20-1 1/4 10 4/mse-3 5/5-2
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SUBJECT: Reaction of Saudi Senior Officers to Ambassador Heath's Speech of November 24.

EXCISE

Enclosed with this despatch are extracts from written comments by officers of the Senior Officers Institute in Riyadh on Ambassador Heath's speech of November 24. The following are the remarks of a U.S. Military Training Mission source of Arab extraction regarding these comments and the general reaction of the Saudis to the speech:

In general there was great interest in what the Ambassador had to say, and the officers appreciated the opportunity to hear an authoritative discourse on the American attitude toward the problems of the Middle East. Until then only Middle East sources had been available from which these Saudi officers could deduce what America really thinks about these problems.

On the other hand, the Saudi officers' reactions to the Ambassador's answers to their questions were mixed and often unfavorable. For example, some officers stated that his replies were very "diplomatic". Others were outspoken on the subject of Israel. These feel that reference to the part played by Russia in the Palestine problem does not detract from U.S. responsibility for the present complications and troubles that have resulted in that area. In general, the officers showed their disappointment that the Ambassador did not reveal a more "positive" official U.S. attitude (i.e., more favorable to the Arab side) toward a solution of the Palestine refugee problem, Algerian independence, and the territorial disputes between Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom.

Comment:

Embassy officers who attended the speech concur with the above comments.

"These comments do not reflect the very friendly atmosphere during the talk."

Wastoltzfus, Jr. /ab

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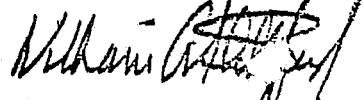
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the question period and the refreshment period. The applause was quite generous and a number of officers thanked me with every appearance of sincerity and looked forward to our meeting again."

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:



William A. Stoltz, Jr.



Enclosures:

1. Extracts of written compositions.
2. Letter from Deputy Chief of USMTM.

cc: Amcongen Dhahran

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EXTRACTS OF WRITTEN COMPOSITIONS

R. M. Fawzi

"We went to hear the relations between SA and USA. I don't know why he spoke about Russia. I don't know why he said that we must live beside Israel. Israel must die. This will be our job in the future."

2d Lt.

"I don't like this kind of talk because the Ambassador makes propaganda for his government. The Ambassador cannot answer the questions. I mean he does not give the truth."

1st Lt.

"He reminded us of the best twenty-five years so we could compare them with the twenty-five years to come. But I said that he does not give us the truth. I know the diplomatic corps business. He is very dangerous. He cannot make any statement without agreement from Congress."

1st Lt.

"Three officers asked him. But his answers were not clear. He was very smart and very diplomatic."

1st Lt.

"It was a valuable lecture."

Capt.

"It was a true talk. Some officers asked him questions and his answers were not bad."

Capt.

"His talk was a personal doctrine. Why? Because he is a diplomat."

Maj.

"He referred to the refugee problem. There will be a solution soon!"

Capt.

"The Ambassador was very clear in his talk."

Lt. Col.

"The Ambassador was diplomatic. He answered all questions carefully, I did not agree with his answers."

Lt. Col.

"He made clear to us many points we could not understand. We would like to listen to him again."

1st Lt.

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"Some officers asked him about Algeria. He answered diplomatically that France and the Arabs were our friends."

1st Lt.

"His lecture was useful and clear. We hope to see him again."

Lt. Col.

"This was a good spirit. Welcome to us Mr. Heath. We thank him about his humility."

2nd Lt.

"The Ambassador forgot Israel must die. Palestine is an Arab land. Israel killed many Palestinians. Refugees now live very bad."

1st Lt.

"I did not have time to ask him 'What did your government do about segregation?' But he must do something against Zionism and Communism. I know he hates Communism."

1st Lt.

"When someone asked him a question he answered with wisdom. We and him were at cross-roads because he was not saying the truth."

Maj.

"The Ambassador spoke ten minutes only about the relations between Saudi Arabia and U.S.A. Most of the talk was about war, U.S.A. that likes peace as the Ambassador said; Russia that does not like peace; and the best Army in the world as the Ambassador wants to say."

2nd Lt.

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From AmEmbassy Jidda

Headquarters
UNITED STATES MILITARY TRAINING MISSION
to Saudi Arabia
APO 616, New York, New York

30 November 1958

The Honorable Donald R. Heath
American Ambassador
American Embassy
Jidda, Saudi Arabia

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

On behalf of General Clark, I wish to thank you for addressing the Saudi Senior Officers' Institute in Riyadh on 24 November 1958.

The Senior U. S. Advisor to the Institute stated that the Saudi students showed great interest in what you had to say. Further, he indicated that the Saudi officers appreciated the opportunity to hear an authoritative discourse on U.S. policy in the Middle East.

For your information I am enclosing a thermofax copy of extracted student comments. B1
(a)(5)

Personally, I was impressed with the fluency and suaveness of your address. I feel confident that you made many points which will accrue to U.S. interests as well as to a better understanding in the military area.

Respectfully,

C. M. ISLEY
Col USA
Deputy Chief

1 Incl
Extracted Student Comments

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